

Miss Oregon

February 1, 2019

Official statement of the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program, related to the Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Activities Division in regard to the activities of the Oregon Scholarship Foundation and the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program for the time period January 1, 2012 through November 30, 2017

In early December 2017, the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program received a notification dated November 30, 2017 from the Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Activities Division notifying our organization that it was undertaking an audit of the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program and the Oregon Scholarship Foundation for the period January 1, 2012 through November 30, 2017. The letter requested detailed physical documentation be sent to the auditor by December 31, 2017. Such documentation included all checks, monthly bank statement, deposit images, signature cards, general ledger documents, transaction listings, budgets and all digital, printed or handwritten reports. Additionally, they requested a narrative description of all program activities, a list of all scholarships promised and the names of all awardees; agreements and contracts with the Oregon Scholarship Foundation; board member names and their complete contact information as well as their dates of service; bylaws; articles of incorporation; amendments; copies of all annual operating reports submitted to the Miss America Organization; and copies of all annual operating reports submitted to the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program by all local program licensees.

All requested documentation for the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program for the dates October 2016 through November 30, 2017 (the time period under which our committee had assumed the leadership role) was submitted on time and as requested.

Our organization participated fully with the Oregon Department of Justice in this investigation and audit. While we are more than troubled at the findings and outcome we look forward to receiving official notification that our portion of the audit has found the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program, under its current leadership, to be both organizationally and financially sound in scope and practice.

The Miss Oregon Scholarship Program has been under the direction of the present leadership team for 2½ years during which time the organization has seen many changes including the seating of a more diverse board of directors, the election of new officers, and the implementation of practices and procedures that are in line with non-profit best practices. Additionally, the leadership team has moved forward with a new mission and vision, and a strategic plan that has and will continue to see a rise in the educational scholarship dollars and opportunities that we offer the women of Oregon.

The Miss Oregon Scholarship Board of Directors and leadership team is comprised of dedicated individuals committed to helping women attain their educational goals and to providing empowering opportunities for service, leadership, partnership and more. We commend the newly seated Board of Directors of the Oregon Scholarship Foundation and look forward to working with them in establishing new current and best practices and procedures.

We are honored to have Taylor Ballard, Miss Oregon 2018 and Kennedy Hjelte, Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen 2018 serving our state through a variety of opportunities and being the faces of our organization. We could not ask for two women more committed to their social impact initiatives, to service and to leadership. We are additionally honored to be working with so many incredible sponsors, benefactors and partners who make it possible for us to fulfill our goals and to fulfill our promises. We could not do this without them.

Every June, a new Miss Oregon and Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen are chosen through a rigorous selection process in Seaside, Oregon. In accordance with the Miss America organization system the new titleholders represent the state and partnering organizations. Tens of thousands of scholarship dollars are awarded throughout Oregon at both the state and local competitions. The education opportunities and growth of today's young women are the cornerstones of this organization from local competitions to Miss America. We look forward to seeing everyone in June for our 72nd annual Miss Oregon Scholarship Competition. Come and see the benefits of being involved!

